## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENING 00444 030710Z

42.

**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 L-02 SP-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01 A-01 /051 W

----- 080229

R 021340Z APR 75 FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1125 AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

CONFIDENTIAL LENINGRAD 0444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, US, UR

SUBJECT: DISPATCH OF UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES FROM LENINGRAD

TO HELSINKI

REF: LENINGRAD-1195, DECEMBER 4, 1974

1. CONSUL GENERAL AGAIN RAISED WITH DIPLOMATIC AGENCY DURING APRIL 1 CALL OUR DESIRE TO DISPATCH UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES BY RAIL TO HELSINKI. AS EMBASSY AWARE, THIS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF VARIOUS EXCHANGES HERE AND IN MOSCOW. DIPLOMATIC AGENCY HEAD POPOV SAID THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, DIPLOMATIC AGENCY WAS UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AND HE MADE REFERENCE TO EXISTENCE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND FINLAND GOVERNING SIZE OF POUCHES AND PROCEDURES FOR THEIR DISPATCH. WHEN REMINDED THAT CONGEN ONLY WISHES TO UTILIZE PROCEDURE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE (EMBASSY NON-PRO COURIERS TO HELSINKI), POPOV MILDLY NOTED THAT EMBASSY'S PRACTICE WAS PROBABLY ALSO IN VIOLATION OF TERMS OF THIS SOVIET-FINNISH AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT MAKE A POINT OF THIS AND SAID THAT QUESTION OF LENINGRAD'S SITUATION SHOULD BE DECIDED BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MFA. POPOV PROMISED TO PROVIDE COPY OF RELEVANT PROVISION OF THIS SOVIET-FINNISH AGREEMENT.

3. CONGEN WILL APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FURTHER EFFORTS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LENING 00444 030710Z

TO CLARIFY THIS SITUATION SINCE WE ARE HAMPERED BY

CONTINUED INABILITY TO DISPATCH OUR UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES AS PART OF BAGGAGE CAR POUCHES ON TICKETS OF MOSCOW NON-PRO COURIERS. HOWEVER, AS EMBASSY AWARE, MOSCOW-HELSINKI TRAIN IS APPARENTLY SCHEDULED TO RE-ROUTE ITS LINE IN MAY AND WILL NOT TRANSIT LENINGRAD'S MOSCOW TRAIN STATION. HENCE, ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN IN TALKS WITH MFA SHOULD TAKE THIS FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT RE-ROUTING OF TRAIN WILL STILL MEAN THAT THIS TRAIN PASSES REASONABLY CLOSE TO LENINGRAD, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A STOP AND/OR SUFFICIENT TIME TO LOAD OUR UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES AND ACCEPT COMPARTMENT-HELD POUCHES FROM NON-PRO COURIERS.

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NEUBERT

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SECURITY, POUCH SERVICES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 02 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975| ENING00444

Document Number: 1975LENING00444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D750115-0871 From: LENINGRAD Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750490/aaaaddxi.tel Line Count: 75

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 LENINGRAD-1195, 75 DECEMBER 4, 75 1974

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: RowellE0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 12 MAY 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DISPATCH OF UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES FROM LENINGRAD TO HELSINKI

TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, US, UR, FI

To: MOSCOW

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006